

An XML accessible network device is capable of performing functions in response to an XML encoded request transmitted over a network. It includes a network data transfer service, coupled to a network, that is capable of receiving XML encoded requests from a client also connected to the network. An XML engine is capable of understanding and parsing the XML encoded requests according to a corresponding DTD. The XML engine further instantiates a service using parameters provided in the XML encoded request and launches the service for execution on the network device. A set of device APIs interacts with hardware and software on the network device for executing the requested service on the network device. If necessary, a response is further collected from the device and provided to the client in a response message.

[illegible]